

And while writing I will mention that two species of *Picris* still rare in America, have in their travels reached this place; *P. hieracioides* and *P. echioides* have both been found this last season within our city limits, and also *Alyssum incanum* has appeared for the first time. *Azolla Caroliniana* has surprised us too, in our largest park, but as the pond which it covers with its fronds is full of lotus plants (*Nelumbo*), it is pretty certain that it came in with their roots. It shows that it is not quite at home in our northern waters by being of slender growth and producing no fruit.—MARIA L. OWEN, *Springfield, Mass.*

Leucoplasts.—It may be of interest to some to know that first-class material for starch formers, showing all stages of the formation of starch grains, may be obtained from the petioles of *Musa Ensete*, the Abyssinian banana. The oblong horizontal diaphragms separating the large intercellular spaces of the petiole are composed of from two to six layers of parenchymatous cells. The superficial layers are stellate in form and contain no leucoplasts or very few, but usually a large number of beautiful crystals. The cells of the deeper layers generally contain a considerable number of comparatively large leucoplasts, either clustered about the nucleus or scattered throughout the cytoplasm. For study it is only necessary to remove the diaphragm with a scalpel, pocket knife, or other similar instrument, mount and treat with reagent to suit the occasion. The lower eight to twelve inches of the petiole furnishes the best material. The botanical department of the University of Wisconsin can furnish a limited amount of this material to institutions not having access to the growing banana plants, at the cost of transportation.—L. S. CHENEY, *University of Wisconsin, Madison.*

Formulae for life histories.—By an oversight the signs following S in the second, third, and fourth formulae printed on page 31 of the January number were o (representing gametes) instead of O (representing spores). Readers should make the correction.—J. M. C.